



Orientation Meeting Two

Guide to Descriptive Journal Writing

Background

Descriptive journal writing requires using all of your senses to describe what you are seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching. You can paint a vivid picture of your experience in the reader's mind if you describe it with all five senses, so they can imagine what it was like just by reading your account. Before you complete your next journal writing assignment using descriptive writing, practice your powers of observation. Look out the window. What do you see? When you are out and about, what do you hear? When you are eating, what do you taste? When you come home from school and dinner is cooking, what do you smell? What do your muscles feel like after you've worked out? What is the texture of your favorite jacket?

The following are examples of descriptive writing. Which example in each pair "paints a picture" more vividly?

Example 1

The market was colorful.

The vibrant red tomatoes in the market contrasted with dazzling oranges like competing suns in the sky.

Example 2

The soup was hot.

The soup scorched my tongue like a river of fire.

Example 3

It smelled like the sea.

A light breeze carried the damp smell of salt water and seaweed through the camp.

Example 4

The thunder was loud.

The thunder rumbled for miles across the plains, its invisible energy shaking the air and seeming to reach all the way down to our bones.

Example 5

The chicken was delicious.

Hints of rosemary seeped from the savory chicken, enticing my taste buds to come back for more.